

A map of the Middle East region with Iraq highlighted in yellow. The surrounding countries are shown in a light tan color, and the Persian Gulf is shown in light blue. The title text is overlaid on the map.

Iraq Weekly Status Report

May 24, 2006

**Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs
US Department of State**



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This report provides weekly updates in the eight key areas identified as pillars of US government policy for victory in Iraq.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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Highlights

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1. Defeat the Terrorists and Neutralize the Insurgents

Based on tips, Coalition Forces located and killed six terrorists, detained three and destroyed a safe house and "IED Factory" with multiple weapons caches in Ramadi during a search on May 17 for a wanted terrorist known as the "Prince of IEDs."

2. Transition Iraq to Security Self-Reliance

Iraqi security forces participated in more than 80 percent of operations in Iraq last week, either independently or combined with other Coalition troops.

3. Help Iraqis to Forge a National Compact for Democratic Government

On May 20, Prime Minister Maliki announced a national unity government. The new cabinet won parliamentary vote of confidence and was sworn into office, though the key Ministries of Defense, Interior and the State Ministry for National Security Affairs remain without permanent heads.

4. Help Iraq Build Government Capacity and Provide Essential Services

Construction is complete on the rehabilitation of a sewer station in Kadamiyah, Baghdad Province. The \$433,000, US Army project was completed on May 8 and included the construction of a new, 661 meter line that will move sewage out of the Kadamiyah neighborhood. The completed project improves service to more than 200,000 residents.



Highlights

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5. Help Iraq Strengthen Its Economy

The World Bank, after a long delay, issued a “no objection” letter on May 18 for the contract terms for the Iraq Interbanking Network, a telecommunications project linking the Central Bank of Iraq (CBI) to the headquarters of banks in Baghdad, Basra and the Kurdish region.

6. Help Iraq Strengthen the Rule of Law

The trial of Saddam Hussein continued in Iraq, though briefly interrupted by a disruption created by defense attorney Bushra Khalil. Khalil was removed from the courtroom on May 22, following ignored repeated warnings to behave appropriately.

7. Increase International Support for Iraq

Leaders from around the world welcomed the formation of a permanent Iraqi government, the first full-term administration since Saddam Hussein was ousted in 2003. Official statements from the following governments and organizations congratulated Prime Minister Maliki and the newly formed government: United States, UK, Italy, Egypt, France, Austria, India, Jordan, Kuwait, the European Commission, United Nations, and Arab League.

8. Strengthen Public Understanding of Coalition Efforts and Public Isolation of the Insurgents

Jordan arrested a member of Al Qaida in Iraq (AQI) and broadcast the member’s confessions on state television on the evening of May 23. Ziad Khalaf al-Kerbouly confessed to hijacking trucks, killing four Iraqi soldiers, and kidnapping two employees of the Moroccan Embassy in Baghdad, who were later killed after he handed them over to his superiors. However, AQI has since denied Kerbouly’s involvement in the militant organization



[1.] Defeat the Terrorists and Neutralize the Insurgency

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Tips Lead Coalition Forces to IED Factory -- 6 Terrorists Killed, 3 Detained:

- Based on tips, Coalition Forces located and killed six terrorists, detained three and destroyed a safe house and multiple weapons caches in Ramadi during a search on May 17 for a wanted terrorist known as the “Prince of IEDs.”
 - The troops found machine guns, small arms, artillery shells, IED material and remote devices, a suicide vest, RPGs and launcher, and automobile parts indicating the terrorists were configuring cars into VBIEDs.

Iraqi Hillah SWAT Team Captures Local Terrorist Leader:

- The Iraqi Police Hillah SWAT team captured local terrorist cell leader, Salih Hassan Latif al-Janabi, east of Iskandariyah during a raid on May 16. Al-Janabi oversaw the operations of several terrorist cells, including a cell responsible for a counterfeit document and money network and for conducting IED attacks in the area.



[2.] Transition Iraq to Security Self-Reliance – Iraqi Security Forces

Iraqi Security Forces Participate in More than 80 percent of Operations:

- Iraqi security forces participated in more than 80 percent of operations in Iraq last week, either independently or combined with other Coalition troops.
 - Of 446 operations conducted the week ending May 12, Iraqi security forces conducted 139 of them alone and 223 of them with Coalition forces, leaving only 84 operations performed solely by Coalition troops.
 - Iraqi forces, even those operating independently, still need Coalition help in logistics, transportation, close-air support, and medical assistance.

109 Iraqi Soldiers Graduate from Signal School:

- The Iraqi Signal School at Taji Military Training Base certified 109 new signal professionals on May 13 in a graduation ceremony that marked the completion of the school's fifth class since its opening in December 2005.

280 New Policemen Graduate from Academy in Najaf:

- The Imam Ali Police Academy in Najaf hosted a graduation ceremony May 18, inducting more than 280 new policemen into its ranks.



[2.] Transition Iraq to Security Self-Reliance – **Iraqi Security Forces**

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Ministry of Interior Forces

COMPONENT	TRAINED & EQUIPPED
POLICE	~101,200
HIGHWAY PATROL	
OTHER MOI FORCES	~44,300
TOTAL	~145,500*

Ministry of Defense Forces

COMPONENT	OPERATIONAL
ARMY	~116,500***
AIR FORCE	~600
NAVY	~800
TOTAL	~117,900**

Total Trained & Equipped ISF:

~263,400****

- * Ministry of Interior Forces: Unauthorized absence personnel are included in these numbers
- ** Ministry of Defense Forces: Unauthorized absence personnel are not included in these numbers
- *** Army numbers include Special Operations Forces and Support Forces
- **** Does not include the approximately 144,000 Facilities Protection Service personnel working in 27 ministries

Data as of May 15, 2006 (updated bi-weekly by DOD)



[3.] Help Iraqis to Forge a National Compact for Democratic Government– **Developments**

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National Unity Government Announced:

- On May 20, Prime Minister Maliki announced a national unity government. The new cabinet won parliamentary vote of confidence and were sworn into office, though the key Ministries of Defense and Interior and the State Ministry for National Security Affairs remain without permanent heads.

Prime Minister Maliki’s Plans:

- On May 21, Prime Minister Maliki laid out his plan for a new Iraq. He promised to work for a sovereign state that will assume responsibility for the security of its people. He committed himself to a free Iraq that will uphold international standards of human rights and respect the role of women in Iraqi society. He pledged to work for a prosperous Iraq that welcomes foreign investment and accelerates reconstruction and lays the foundations for economic growth and opportunity. He declared he would lead a transparent Iraq, where government is open and accountable, and corruption is not tolerated. And he vowed to work for a peaceful Iraq that is the enemy of terror, a friend to its neighbors, and a reliable partner in the community of nations.



[3.] Help Iraqis to Forge a National Compact for Democratic Government - Iraqi National Unity Government

Deputy President Tariq al-Hashimi	President Jalal Talabani	Deputy President 'Adil 'Abd al-Mahdi
Deputy Prime Minister Barham Salih	Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki	Deputy Prime Minister Salam al-Zawba'i

(F) = Female

Minister of Agriculture Ya'rub Nathim	Minister of Communications Muhammad Tawfiq Allawi	Minister of Culture As'ad Kamal Muhammad Abdallah al-Hashimi	Minister of Defense Salam al-Zawba'i (acting)	Minister of Displacement & Migration Abd al-Samad Rahman Sultan	Minister of Electricity Karim Wahid
Minister of Education Khudayyir al-Khuza'i	Minister of Environment Narmin 'Uthman (F)	Minister of Finance Bayan Jabr	Minister of Foreign Affairs Hoshiyar Zebari	Minister of Health Ali al-Shammari	Minister of Higher Education Abd Dhiyab al-Ajili
Minister of Human Rights Wijdan Mikha'il (F)	Minister of Industry & Minerals Fawzi al-Hariri	Minister of Interior Nuri al-Maliki (acting)	Minister of Justice Hashim al-Shibli	Minister of Housing & Construction Bayan Daza'i (F)	Minister of Labor & Social Affairs Mahmud Muhammad Jawad al-Radi
Minister of Oil Husayn al-Shahrestani	Minister of Planning Ali Baban	Minister of Trade Abd al-Falah al-Sudani	Minister of Science & Technology Ra'id Fahmi Jahid	Minister of Municipalities & Public Works Riyad Ghurayyib	Minister of Transportation Karim Mahdi Salih
Minister of Water Resources 'Abd al-Latif Rashid	Minister of Youth & Sports Jasim Muhammad Ja'far	Minister of State for Civil Society Adil al-Asadi	Minister of State for National Dialogue Affairs Akram al-Hakim	Minister of State for National Security Affairs Barham Salih (acting)	
Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Rafi Hiyad al-Isawi	Minister of State for Governorates Affairs Sa'd Tahir Abd Khalaf al-Hashimi	Minister of State for Tourism and Antiquities Liwa Sumaysim	Minister of State for Women's Affairs Fatin Abd al-Rahman Mahmud (F)	Minister of State for CoR Affairs Safa al-Safi	



[4.] Help Iraq Build Government Capacity and Provide Essential Services – Financials from Iraq Relief and Reconstruction Fund (IRRF) 1 and IRRF 2

(Millions of USD)

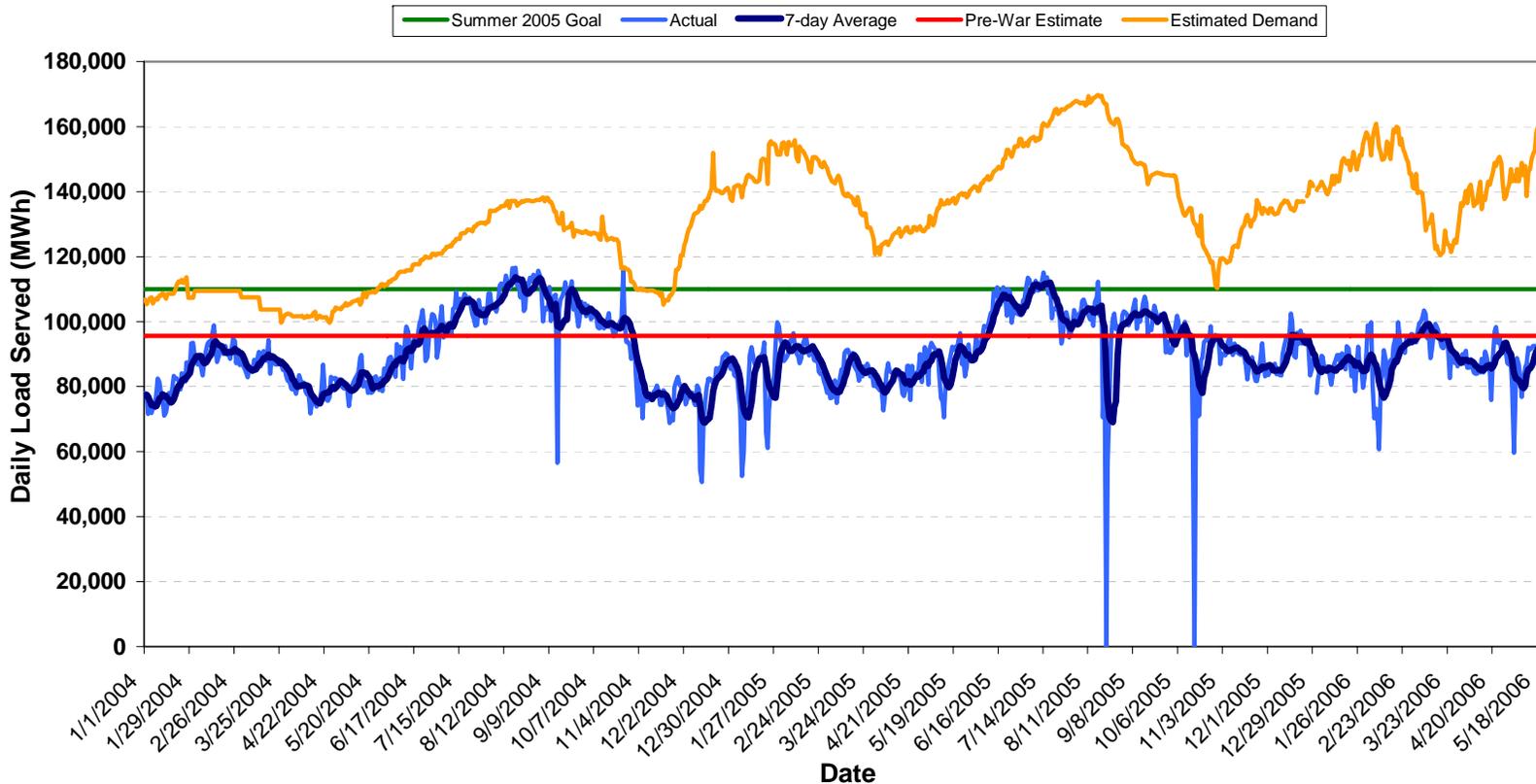
Sector	Apportioned		Committed			Obligated			Disbursed		
	2207 Report	Apportion	Last Week	Current	Change	Last Week	Current	Change	Last Week	Current	Change
Security and Law Enforcement	\$5,036.00	\$5,036.00	\$4,936.37	\$4,935.16	-\$1.21	\$4,904.19	\$4,911.68	\$7.49	\$4,494.39	\$4,502.18	\$7.79
Electricity Sector	\$4,220.02	\$4,220.02	\$4,023.01	\$4,021.47	-\$1.54	\$3,537.78	\$3,526.20	-\$11.58	\$2,195.49	\$2,174.72	-\$20.78
Oil Infrastructure	\$1,735.60	\$1,735.60	\$1,678.35	\$1,678.02	-\$0.33	\$1,609.54	\$1,604.14	-\$5.40	\$933.08	\$948.33	\$15.25
Justice, Public Safety and Civil Society	\$1,315.95	\$1,315.95	\$1,254.74	\$1,254.45	-\$0.29	\$1,214.61	\$1,215.91	\$1.29	\$836.17	\$844.61	\$8.44
Democracy	\$1,033.85	\$1,033.85	\$983.79	\$983.99	\$0.21	\$983.88	\$983.88	\$0.00	\$722.64	\$722.90	\$0.26
Education, Refugees, Human Rights, Governance	\$410.00	\$410.00	\$354.67	\$354.67	\$0.00	\$353.81	\$353.73	-\$0.07	\$271.11	\$271.13	\$0.02
Roads, Bridges and Construction	\$333.71	\$333.71	\$319.18	\$317.91	-\$1.27	\$315.29	\$313.29	-\$1.99	\$180.27	\$180.86	\$0.59
Health Care	\$739.00	\$739.00	\$719.79	\$719.79	\$0.00	\$664.94	\$663.28	-\$1.67	\$461.98	\$482.64	\$20.66
Transportation and Communications	\$465.51	\$465.51	\$445.87	\$444.71	-\$1.16	\$422.76	\$421.27	-\$1.49	\$272.53	\$279.77	\$7.24
Water Resources and Sanitation	\$2,131.08	\$2,131.08	\$1,872.04	\$1,850.23	-\$21.81	\$1,590.45	\$1,594.20	\$3.75	\$1,016.80	\$1,082.00	\$65.19
Private Sector Development	\$805.28	\$805.28	\$788.87	\$788.87	\$0.00	\$782.39	\$782.39	\$0.00	\$637.70	\$637.70	\$0.00
Admin Expense (USAID, STATE)	\$213.00	\$213.00	\$212.44	\$212.44	\$0.00	\$212.44	\$212.44	\$0.00	\$101.19	\$101.19	\$0.00
Total	\$18,439.00	\$18,439.00	\$17,589.11	\$17,561.72	-\$27.39	\$16,592.07	\$16,582.40	-\$9.67	\$12,123.36	\$12,228.02	\$104.66
IRRF II Construction			\$10,110.25	\$10,081.02	-\$29.23	\$9,318.77	\$9,306.77	-\$12.00	\$6,321.12	\$6,409.29	\$88.17
IRRF II Non-Construction			\$6,495.06	\$6,496.70	\$1.63	\$6,289.42	\$6,291.75	\$2.33	\$5,079.60	\$5,095.84	\$16.24
IRRF II Democracy			\$976.49	\$976.70	\$0.21	\$975.70	\$975.71	\$0.00	\$722.64	\$722.90	\$0.26
IRRF I Total	\$2,473.30	\$2,473.30	\$2,473.30	\$2,473.30	\$0.00	\$2,473.30	\$2,473.30	\$0.00	\$2,406.60	\$2,406.60	\$0.00
Grand Total IRRF I & II	\$20,912.30	\$20,912.30	\$20,062.41	\$20,035.02	-\$27.39	\$19,065.37	\$19,055.70	-\$9.67	\$14,529.96	\$14,634.62	\$104.66

As of May 23, 2006



[4.] Help Iraq Build Government Capacity and Provide Essential Services – Electricity Overview

Daily Electricity Supplied and Estimated Demand in Iraq Since January 2004



- Electricity availability in Baghdad decreased slightly in the last week (16-22 May 2006) with an average of 3.5 hours per day. Availability continues to be low due to poor performance by Baghdad area plants, increased demand with higher seasonal temperatures and hoarding in the south.
- Nationwide average electricity availability was also down slightly to 9.8 hours per day.
- Electricity output since the start of 2006 is 6 percent higher than it was for the same period in 2005.

[4.] Help Iraq Build Government Capacity and Provide Essential Services – **Water and Sanitation**



Water and Sanitation:

- Construction is complete on the rehabilitation of a sewer station in Kadamiyah, Baghdad Province. The \$433,000, US Army project included the construction of a new 661 meter line that will move sewage out of the neighborhood, improving service for more than 200,000 residents.
- The government of Japan recently allocated \$10 million to further development efforts in the marshlands area in southern Iraq. The Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) showed its readiness to train Iraqis on the development of projects in marsh areas, such as environment-related projects, water treatment, and key services for inhabitants. The general manager of the Planning and Follow-Up department in the Ministry of Municipalities recently said that an Iraqi delegation visited Japan to discuss the mechanism of technical and financial support that JICA will offer.

Public Health and Healthcare:

- The government of Japan will supply 700 ambulances to the Ministry of Health (MoH), worth approximately \$54 million. The first lot of 150 is about to be shipped from Japan. Japan has also placed contracts for rehabilitation and upgrade work at ten general hospitals across Iraq worth approximately \$169 million, including Al Khadamiyah Teaching Hospital in Baghdad, Irbil General Hospital, and Nassiriyah General Hospital.



[4.] Help Iraq Build Government Capacity and Provide Essential Services – **Education and Transportation**

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Education:

- The \$108,000 refurbishment project on the Ibn Hajar School in Taji, Baghdad Province was completed on May 18. The project provided all the materials, equipment and labor to repair and restore the sewage system, electrical system components, classrooms, common areas and offices. Two new classrooms, a guard room and a new student restroom were constructed. This renovation provides a better educational environment for approximately 300 children.
- Minister of Education, Dr. Abdul Falah al-Soudani, announced on May 16 that the ministry created more than 7,000 examination centers to carry out general exams for intermediate and secondary school students this year. More than one million students will accomplish the general exams for primary, intermediate and secondary schools.

Transportation:

- A \$2 million US Army roadside repair project in Taji, Baghdad Province was completed. The project provided for the surface repair and cleaning of more than 85 kilometers of the road, benefiting approximately 53,000 residents.



[5.] Help Iraq Strengthen Its Economy – Oil Update and Job Creation

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Oil Update:

- Crude oil prices in world markets for the week ending May 19 closed with the following prices:
 - Basrah Light at \$61.13/barrel
 - Dated Brent at \$68.75/barrel
 - WTI Cushing at \$69.12/barrel
 - Oman/Dubai at \$63.65/barrel

Employment Update:

- The following chart shows the number of Iraqis employed by USG-administered projects:

Employing Organization	Iraqis Last Week	Iraqis This Week	% Increase on Week
PCO (Project and Contracting Office)	29,944	28,583	-4.55%
USAID	48,272	47,247	-2.12%
AIRP (Accelerated Iraqi Reconstruction Program)	1,158	1,158	0.00%
MILCON (Military Construction)	243	286	17.70%
CERP*	9,787	9,247	-5.52%
MNSTC-I	8,408	8,550	1.69%
IRRF NON-CONSTRUCTION	15,481	15,478	-0.02%
GRAND TOTAL	113,293	110,549	-2.42%

* CERP employment numbers are representative of Baghdad only.

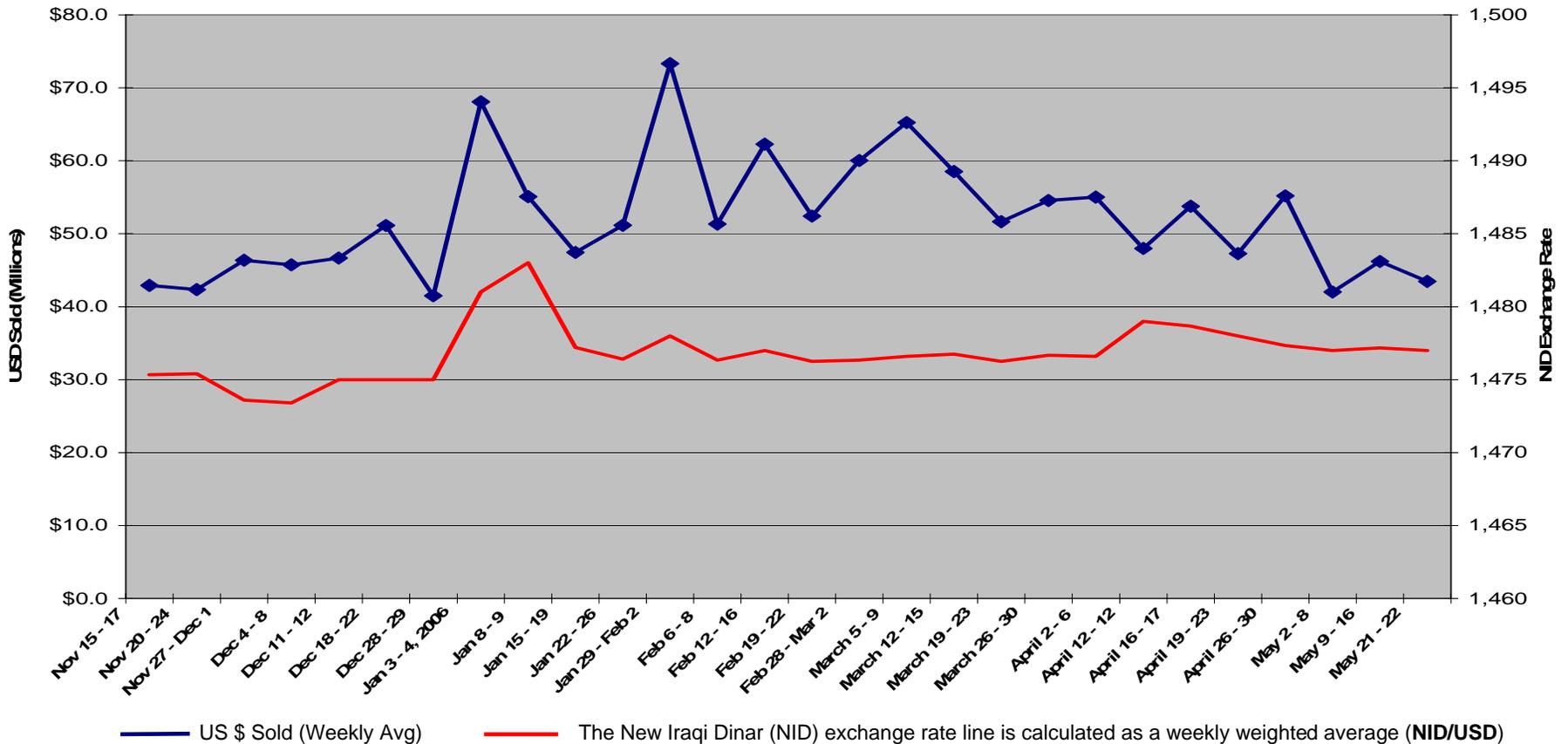


[5.] Help Iraq Strengthen Its Economy - Banking Sector

Central Bank's US Dollar (USD) Currency Auction:

- The following table shows volume sold and exchange rates for USD in the Iraqi currency auction since November 15, 2005. The dinar remained stable against the dollar this week, ending at 1,477 dinars per USD on May 22.

**Central Bank of Iraq
USD Currency Auction: November 15, 2005 – May 22, 2006**



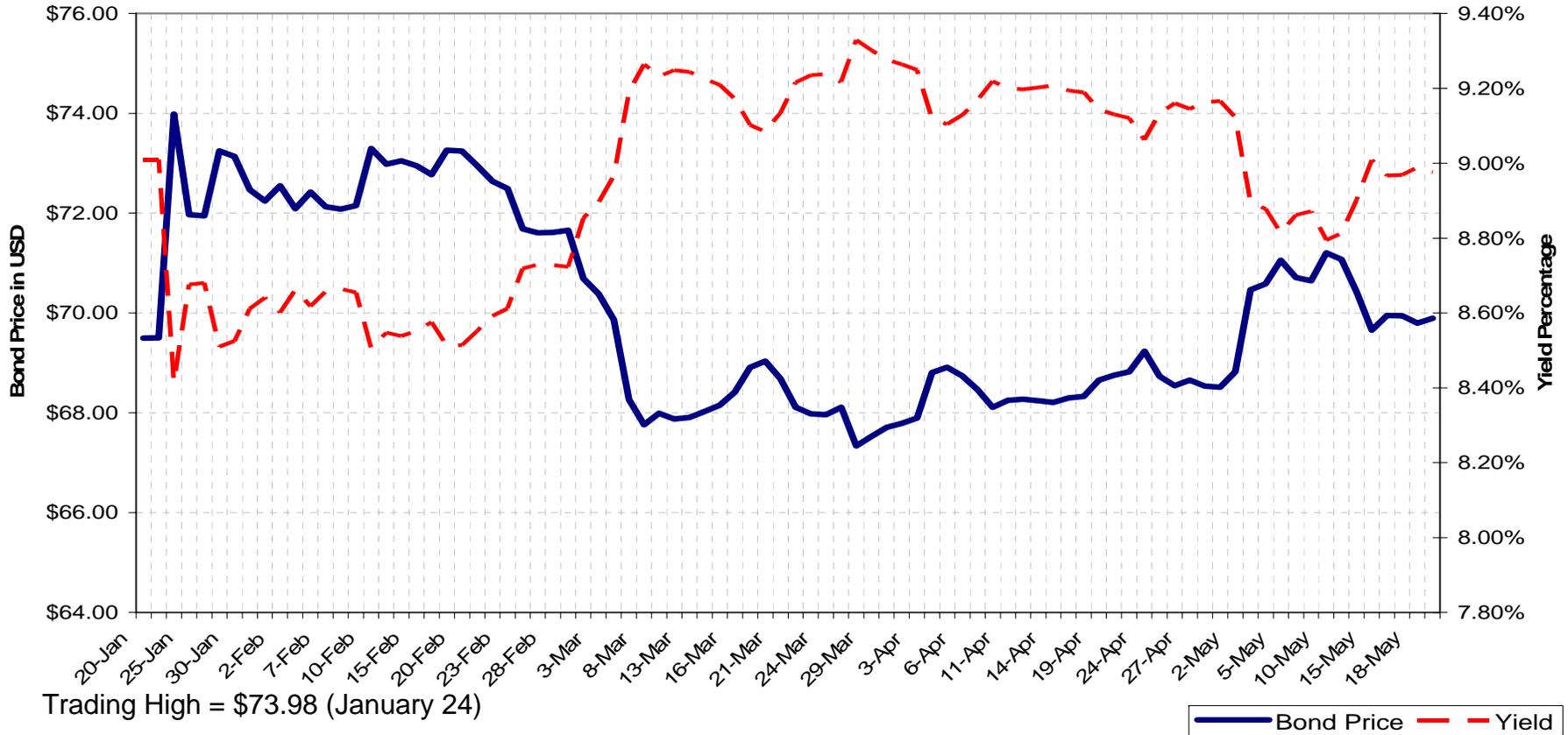


[5.] Help Iraq Strengthen Its Economy – Securities Markets

Trading of Iraqi Bonds on the International Secondary Bond Market:

- The following table shows the daily bond resale price and yield on Iraqi bonds issued January 20. The bonds were originally issued to about two-thirds of Iraq's commercial creditors as part of a debt exchange arrangement at Paris Club terms. Iraq's commercial debt was approximately \$22 billion before the debt-swap arrangement. The bonds, which are not yet rated, will mature in 2028. The bonds' current yield of 8.98 percent remains one of the highest in the world for sovereign debt instruments.

Iraqi Commercial Bond Sales
January 20, 2006 - May 19, 2006





[5.] Help Iraq Strengthen Its Economy – Ministry of Trade

Iraq Interbanking Network:

- The World Bank, after a long delay, issued a “no objection” letter on May 18 for the contract terms for the Iraq Interbanking Network, a telecommunications project linking the Central Bank of Iraq (CBI) to the headquarters of banks in Baghdad, Basra and the Kurdish region. This \$3 million project will complete the first stage of the national payments system (NPS) modernization. The computer infrastructure for the NPS has been installed in the Central Bank and connected to the two largest banks, Rafidain and Rasheed.

Office for Private Sector Development in the Ministry of Trade:

- The Council of Ministers recently approved the creation of the Office for Private Sector Development within the Ministry of Trade. The office will link the Ministry of Trade and the private sector and will facilitate trade relations with other countries. The office will establish a trade information center offering services to businessmen and investors, hold meetings with Iraqi and foreign investors and implement an intensive capacity building program in trade and investment.

WTO Ascension Efforts:

- The Ministry of Trade will participate in a training course organized by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in Geneva from May 22 to 26. The course will focus on Iraq accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO).



[5.] Help Iraq Strengthen Its Economy – Private Sector Development

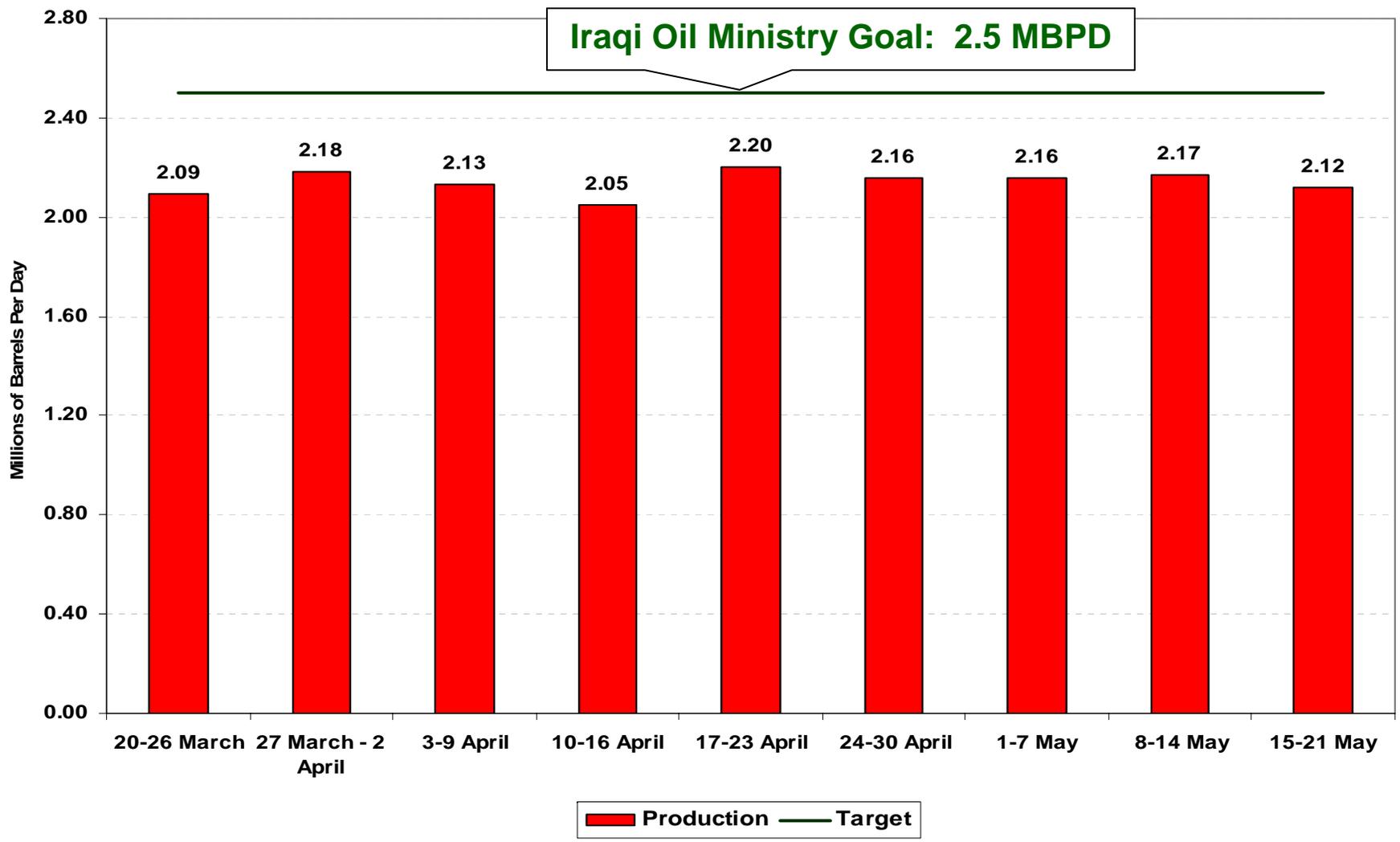
Agriculture and Reconstruction and Development Program For Iraq (ARDI):

- ARDI and the Ministry of Agriculture are working together to rehabilitate veterinary clinics throughout Iraq, to improve veterinary services to livestock breeders. Livestock production is an important economic activity throughout Iraq, on which many families depend for food and income. Veterinary clinics provide services that help breeders maintain the health of their livestock, including treatment of diseases and implementation of vaccination campaigns. As of May, 64 rehabilitated clinics serve over 127,000 breeders and 4.6 million livestock.



[5.] Help Iraq Strengthen Its Economy – Crude Oil Production

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

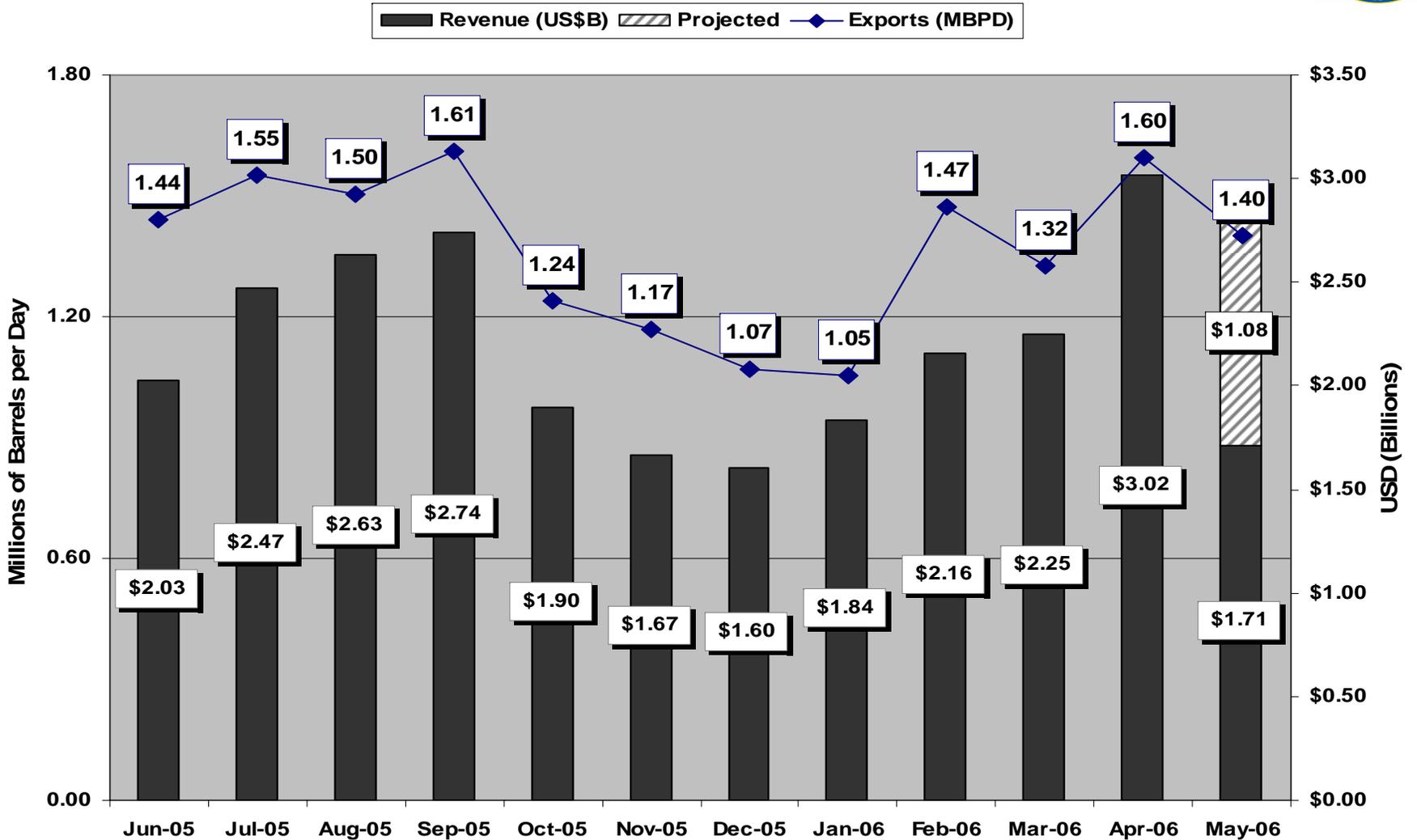


- Weekly Average (May 15-21) of 2.12 Million Barrels Per Day (MBPD)



[5.] Help Iraq Strengthen Its Economy – Crude Oil Export

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

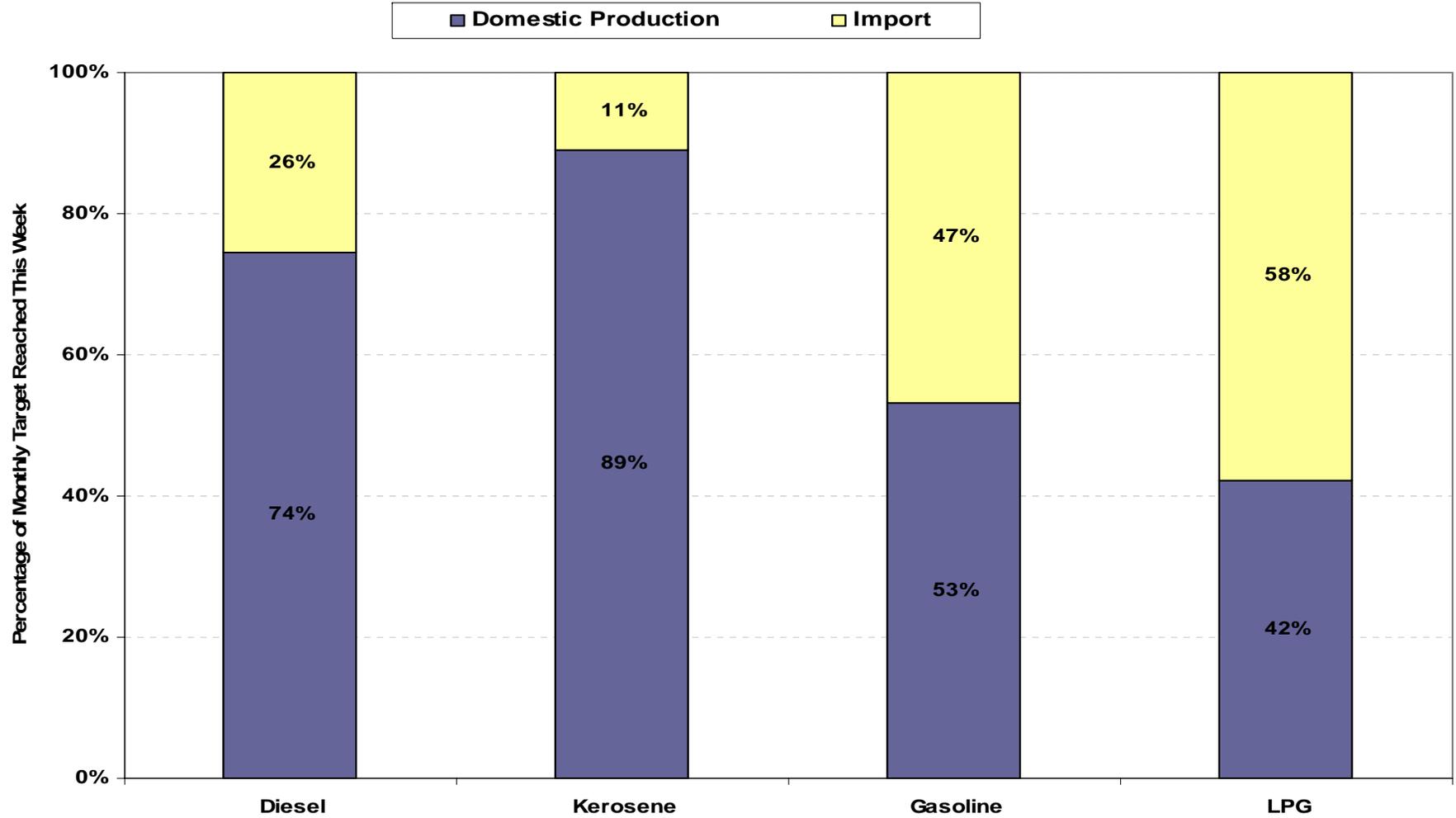


- 2005 Revenue Estimate: \$23.5 Billion
- 2006 Revenue Estimate: \$11.1 Billion (Year to Date)



[5.] Help Iraq Strengthen Its Economy – Total Critical Refined Product Supplies

DEPARTMENT OF STATE



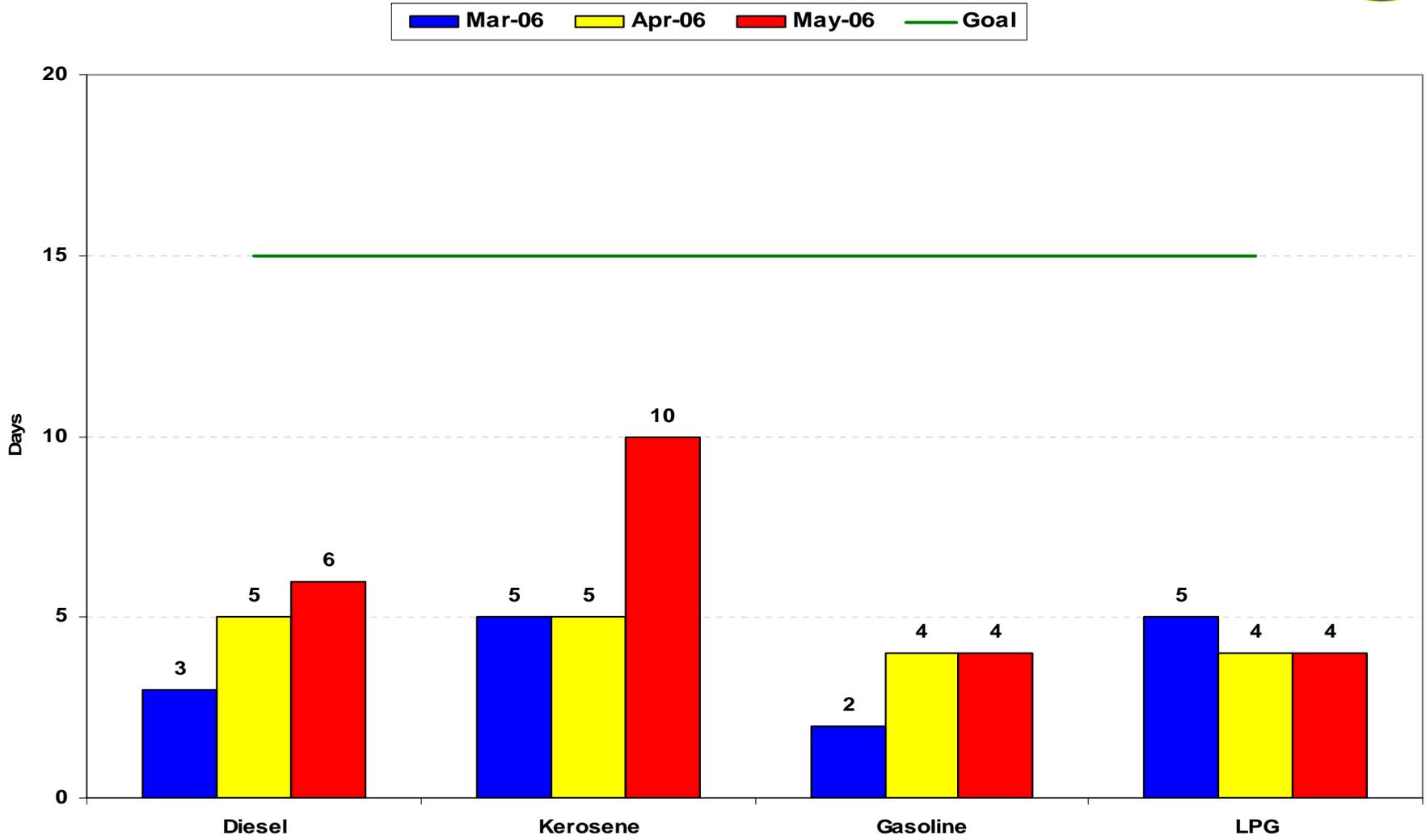
Note: This is a daily average for the week of May 15-21

- Diesel: 15.9 ML supply of 20.0 ML target
- Kerosene: 5.3 ML supply of 5.5 ML target
- Gasoline: 16.6 ML supply of 20.5 ML target
- LPG: 4,488 tons supply of 4,500 tons target



[5.] Help Iraq Strengthen Its Economy – National Stock Levels

DEPARTMENT OF STATE



• The goal is to have on hand 15 days supply of all refined products, calculated on the basis of maximum consumption over the year and not adjusted for seasonal variation. The numbers given above are monthly averages.



[6.] Help Iraq Strengthen the Rule of Law and Promote Civil Rights— Iraqi Judicial System

Detainees Released Following CRRB Review:

- Multi-National Forces- Iraq released 79 male detainees from Theater Internment Facilities on May 18, following review and recommendation for release by the Combined Review and Release Board (CRRB). The Iraqi-led CRRB, which was established in August 2004, consists of members from the Ministries of Human Rights, Justice and Interior, as well as officers from the Multi-National Forces. To date, the board has reviewed the cases of more than 38,600 detainees, recommending more than 19,450 individuals for release.



[6.] Help Iraq Strengthen the Rule of Law and Promote Civil Rights– Iraqi Judicial System

Saddam Hussein Trial Continues:

- Near the start of May 22's session of trial, an attorney for the former Iraqi president was thrown out of the courtroom only minutes after she had been readmitted following her ejection in April. Bushra Khalil had previously been thrown out of the courtroom after holding up pictures that she said showed US troops abusing Iraqi prisoners at Abu Ghraib prison. She did so while saying to Hussein, "Look what they are doing to your country." On May 22, Khalil was removed from the Iraqi Special Tribunal after ignoring the chief judge's admonition to remain silent. The judge, Raouf Abdel-Rahman, told her she would need to behave properly this time and remain silent. Khalil refused and removed her robe, throwing it in the direction of the judge. Two guards then took her out of the courtroom. The trial began on October 19 last year and a US official close to the proceedings said Monday he expected a verdict by the end of July or early August. Saddam and his co-defendants could face the death penalty if found guilty of the killings of 148 Shiite villagers after a failed assassination attempt against the ousted dictator in Dujail in 1982.

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[7.] Increase International Support for Iraq – **Developments**

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EU Commission announces full package of assistance to Iraq:

- Following the nomination of the new Iraqi government, the European Commission announced it will make available the €200 million announced in 2005. [The EC unveiled for the first time the following breakdown: Improving the quality of life of Iraqis (€110 million), Furthering democracy in Iraq (€40 million), Promoting good governance (€40 million), Reserve (€10 million)] to continue supporting the reconstruction of the country in 2006. The Commission will also soon step up its presence in Baghdad and will nominate a Head of Delegation. With the new government in place, the Commission expects to launch negotiations for a Trade and Cooperation Agreement in the near future.

World Leaders Hail Iraqi Government Formation:

- Leaders from around the world welcomed the formation of a permanent Iraqi government, the first full-term administration since Saddam Hussein was ousted in 2003. Official statements from the following governments and organizations congratulated Prime Minister Maliki and the newly formed government: Arab League, the European Union, United Nations, UNSYG, Australia, Austria, Algeria, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Egypt, Estonia, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Malta, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Poland, Russia, Sweden, UAE, Ukraine, and the UK.



[7.] Increase International Support for Iraq – Contributors to Iraqi Stability Operations

Data as of May 17, 2006

28 Countries with forces in Iraq (in addition to US)

Albania	El Salvador	Lithuania	Romania
Armenia	Estonia	Macedonia	Singapore
Australia	Georgia	Moldova	Slovakia
Azerbaijan	Italy	Mongolia	South Korea
Bosnia-Herzegovina	Japan	Netherlands	Ukraine
Bulgaria	Kazakhstan	Poland	UK
Czech Republic	Latvia	Portugal	
Denmark			

TOTAL ~ 20,000 Forces

*Note: Fiji participating as a part of the UN mission in Iraq.

34 Countries and NATO*
(including US)
Support Iraqi Stability Operations

*34 includes the 28 countries listed above, the US, Fiji, and as four NATO, non-MNF-I countries: Hungary, Iceland, Slovenia, Turkey



[8.] Strengthen Public Understanding of Coalition Efforts and Public Isolation of the Insurgents – **Developments**

Strategic Communications:

- Jordan arrested a member of Al Qaida in Iraq (AQI) and broadcast the member's confessions on state television on the evening of May 23. Ziad Khalaf al-Kerbouly confessed to hijacking trucks, killing four Iraqi soldiers, and kidnapping two employees of the Moroccan Embassy in Baghdad, who were later killed after he handed them over to his superiors. He also said that he worked as an Iraqi customs agent working along the western border with Jordan, giving him the opportunity to know who was entering and leaving Iraq and killing those whom he chose for the purpose of benefiting Al Qaida. His confession was without emotion and made public the mentality of members of AQI. Al Arabiya television said Kerbouly was captured in Iraq by Jordanian intelligence agents, carried across the border and arrested at the Queen Alia International Airport near Amman. Though the Jordanian government called Kerbouly a high-ranking official within AQI, the member's own account portrayed him as a simple foot soldier. However, AQI has since denied Kerbouly's involvement in the militant organization, saying in a statement posted to an Islamic website on May 24, "we of al-Qaida in Iraq want to point out that we don't even know the person shown on Jordanian television."



[8.] Strengthen Public Understanding of Coalition Efforts and Public Isolation of the Insurgents – **Developments**

Strategic Communications:

- Javier Solana, the High representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) for the European Union (EU) welcomed the formation of the new national unity government in Iraq, saying “I am indeed very pleased to hear that the Prime Minister of Iraq has succeeded in forming a government which has been approved by the Council of Representatives on 20 May 2006. This is a significant development and I would like to congratulate Prime Minister Nuri al Maliki, his government, all political groupings involved and the Iraqi people. The EU is ready to engage with the new government in supporting efforts of national reconciliation and reconstruction. I look forward to working with the new government of Iraq.”
- In a press conference on the inauguration of the national unity government, US Ambassador Khalilzad said that “the future of Iraq will set the course of the future of the Greater Middle East. The future of this region will determine the future of the world over the next century. I therefore call upon the international community to join us in helping to support the democratically elected government of Iraq in its important work.”



Special Addendum: Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRT)

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PRT Mission Statement:

- To assist Iraq's provincial governments with developing a transparent and sustained capability to govern, promoting increased security and rule of law, promoting political and economic development, and providing provincial administration necessary to meet the basic needs of the population.

Provincial Reconstruction Team Concept:

- The PRT concept was developed to improve on Regional Embassy Office (REO) and Provincial Support Team (PST) programs. The PRTs are a civil-military operation led by the civilians with extensive support from US and Coalition Forces. The PRTs are an integrated capacity-building effort built around Local Governance Program (LGP) and include support from other agencies to cover all key capacity development needs.

PRT Operations Status:

- PRTs have been established in Ninawa, Babil, Kirkuk, Baghdad, and Anbar province. The teams are comprised of representatives from the US Department of State, United States Agency for International Development, Multi-National Force – Iraq, Department of Justice, Gulf Regional Division of the Army Corps of Engineers, Multi-National Corps – Iraq and Coalition partners.

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Iraq Weekly Status – General Information

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- This brief draws from multiple sources. References are cited on the following pages.
- Please forward all questions and/or comments to:
NEA-I-IPOG-DL@state.gov



Notes and Source Citations (1 of 3)

Slide 5:

- Press Release - MNF-I: May 21, 2006-Release A060521a (<http://www.mnf-iraq.com/Releases/May/060521a.htm>).
- Press Release - MNF-I: May 18, 2006-Release A060518c (<http://www.mnf-iraq.com/Releases/May/060518c.htm>).

Slide 6:

- Press Release - MNF-I: May 22, 2006-Release A060522 (<http://www.mnf-iraq.com/Daily/May/060522.htm>).
- Defense Link, American Forces Press Service: May 22, 2006 (<http://www.defendamerica.mil/articles/may2006/a052206dg2.html>)
- Defense Link, American Forces Press Service: May 19, 2006 (<http://www.defendamerica.mil/articles/may2006/a051906ls2.html>).

Slide 7:

- DoD Input to Iraq Weekly Status Report May 15, 2006

Slide 8:

- Transcript of U.S. Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad's Press Conference - On the Inauguration of the Permanent Government of Iraq
- Remarks By The President On The Global War On Terror - Chicago, Illinois - May 22, 2006

Slide 9:

- NEA Political Section, NEA-I-POL-DL@state.gov

Slide 10:

- IRMO Weekly Report, May 16

Slide 11:

- The chart shows average daily power production in megawatt hours (MWh). 120,000 MWh goal equates to 20 hours at 6000 MW average supplied load or 24 hours at 5000 MW average supply load. Currently supplies are not much improved over last year when judged by hours of power, but this is due in part to an influx of new appliances. This has dramatically altered demand and diluted the effect of increased generation capacity on actual results.



Notes and Source Citations (2 of 3)

Slide 12:

Water

- GRD-PCO Iraq Reconstruction Weekly Update May 19
- Izdihar Iraqi Business News Saturday 20 of May 2006

Slide 13:

Education

- GRD-PCO Iraq Reconstruction Weekly Update May 19
- MNF-I Newsletter May 22

Transportation

- GRD-PCO Iraq Reconstruction Weekly Update May 19

Slide 14:

Oil Prices:

- Oil Prices are sourced from Bloomberg

Employment Update:

- Information regarding the Employment Update was sourced from the IRMO Weekly Report – May 23, 2006
- CERP has not reported figures for some time. Until they report accurate data, the number will remain at 0.
- PCO will be reporting on a bi-weekly basis.

Slide 15:

- Information regarding the NID auction was gathered from the Central Bank of Iraq's website: <http://www.cbiraq.org>.

Slide 16:

- Iraqi Bond Prices are sourced from Bloomberg

Slide 17:

- Izdihar Iraqi Business News Thursday 18 May 2006
- Izdihar Iraqi Business News Saturday 20 May 2006

Slide 18:

- ARDI Daily Report 23 May

Slide 19:

- Department of State, NEA-I-ECON, 202-647-9885



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Slide 20:

–Department of State, NEA-I-ECON, 202-647-9885

Slide 21:

–Department of State, NEA-I-ECON, 202-647-9885

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–Department of State, NEA-I-ECON, 202-647-9885

Slide 23:

–MNF-I Press Release, CRRB Releases 79 Detainees, <http://www.mnf-iraq.com/pressreleases.htm>

Slide 24:

–CNN Press Release, Hussein laughs amid courtroom chaos
<http://www.cnn.com/2006/WORLD/meast/05/22/hussein.trial/index.html>

Slide 25:

–http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/iraq/intro/index.htm
–<http://www.reuters.com>

Slide 26:

–DOD Input to Weekly Status Report , updated bi-weekly

Slide 27:

–The Washington Post, May 24/AP, May 24

Slide 28:

–“Javier Solana EU High Representative for the CFSP welcomes the formation of a new government in Iraq” Brussels, May 22/
–News Release “Transcript of US Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad’s Press Conference On the Inauguration of the Permanent Government of Iraq,” May 20

Slide 29:

–NEA-I-ECON@state.gov